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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC0000
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 002194

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/23/2017
TAGS: [FR](#) [LE](#) [UNSC](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: FRENCH CONSIDER DELAYING TRIBUNAL VOTE TO APPEASE
RUSSIANS

CLASSIFIED BY: POLITICAL MINISTER-COUNSELOR JOSIAH ROSENBLATT, REASONS
1.4 (B) AND (D).

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11. (C) SELENA GRENET, THE MFA'S IO ACTION OFFICER FOR THE
MIDDLE EAST, TOLD US MAY 25 THAT FRANCE IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT
DELAYING THE VOTE BY ONE DAY (TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 30) ON THE
UNSCR TO ESTABLISH THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON IN
ORDER TO APPEASE RUSSIA. GRENET SAID THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION
IN NEW YORK WAS "VERY ANGRY" ABOUT U.S. PLANS TO PUT THE
RESOLUTION IN BLUE ON MAY 25, AND WAS CLAIMING THAT THE
PROPOSED U.S. TIMETABLE WOULD DEPRIVE OTHER DELEGATIONS OF
THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MEANINGFUL COMMENTS ON THE TEXT.
GRENET ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A BOGUS ARGUMENT (AND SAID
THE FRENCH MISSION HAD POINTEDLY REMINDED THE RUSSIANS OF
THEIR REFUSAL TO COORDINATE ON THE TEXT AT THE P-5 LEVEL),
BUT BELIEVED THAT DELAYING THE VOTE BY ONE DAY WAS A SMALL
PRICE TO PAY IF IT KEPT THE RUSSIANS FROM MAKING MISCHIEF.
POLOFF REAFFIRMED OUR STRONG DESIRE TO REACH A VOTE ON
TUESDAY, MAY 29.

12. (C) GRENET WAS OPTIMISTIC, BASED ON INFORMATION
COMMUNICATED BY USUN TO THE FRENCH PERMREP ON MAY 24, THAT WE
HAVE THE REQUISITE VOTES TO PASS THE RESOLUTION. SHE

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PREDICTED THAT ITALY WOULD SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION SO LONG AS
IT INCLUDED A "SUNRISE" CLAUSE SAYING THE RESOLUTION WOULD
ENTER INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 5 OR 6 (THE DATE, SHE SAID,
PROPOSED BY PM SINIORA'S ADVISOR MOHAMMED CHATTAH). GRENET
SAID FRANCE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE ADDITION OF SUCH A
CLAUSE, ALTHOUGH SHE SAID THE MFA HAD NOT YET TAKEN A
POSITION ON WHICH DATE THE RESOLUTION SHOULD COME INTO
EFFECT. SHE NOTED THAT FRANCE STILL HAS NO CONFIRMATION THAT
SOUTH AFRICA WILL SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION, DESPITE APPARENT
PROMISES TO THIS EFFECT GIVEN BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO
LEBANESE MAJORITY LEADER SAAD HARIRI.

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[HTTP://WWW.STATE.SGOV.GOV/P/EUR/PARIS/INDEX.C FM](http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm)

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